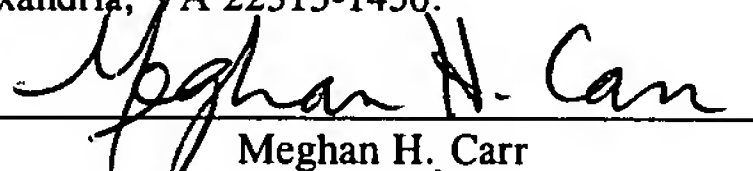


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****APPLICANT:** Bryan Comeau et al.**GROUP:** Unknown**SERIAL NO:** 10/649,530**EXAMINER:** Unknown**FILED:** August 27, 2003**FOR:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE
ALIGNMENT QUALITY IN AN ILLUMINATION SYSTEM
INCLUDING AN ILLUMINATION MODULATOR**Commissioner of Patents**
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**Sir:****PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT and RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF OMITTED ITEM(S)**

Preliminary to examination and in response to the Notice of Omitted Item(s) (a copy of which is enclosed), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Meghan H. Carr
12/11/03
Date

Please rewrite the brief description of the drawings section on pages 3 and 4 as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

The following description may be further understood with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows an illustrative diagrammatic view of an imaging system employing an alignment detection system in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

~~[Figure 2 shows an illustrative diagrammatic view of a modulated illumination field in a system in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;]~~

Figure [3] 2 shows an illustrative graphical representation of a scan image ~~[with three sample regions;]~~

Figure [4] 3 shows an illustrative diagrammatic view of a process in accordance with an embodiment of the invention; and

Figure [5] 4 shows an illustrative graphical representation of the diffracted energy levels versus the number of segments at each energy level in accordance with a further embodiment of the invention.

The drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not to scale.--

Respectfully submitted,



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